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| Ferns  Identifying characteristics | Similarities | Mosses  Identifying characteristics |
| -consists of one or more fronds attached to a rhizome  -rhizome is subterranean and has true roots attached to it.  -rhizome generally lays deeply buried into the soil and is not visible  -some ferns live in aquatic habitats and extend their root structure into the water instead of taking root in soil. Others survive in inhospitable deserts while some live in arctic tundras.  - ability to thrive in a variety of settings. | - neither has flowers  - reproduce with spores rather than seeds  -contain epiphytes which allows them to grow on other plants and structures rather than just in soil  -make their own food using photosynthesis  -primitive plants | -Mosses are non-vascular, having no method to transport water or nutrients over the length of a leaf or stem.  -most grow in moist, shady habitats but can also be found at sea level or at heights growing on other plants  -belongs to a group of plants called ‘Bryophytes’  -water passes from cell to cell by osmosis. They are only a few cells thick.  - consists of small root like structures called rhizoids, gametophyte (base) and sporophyte (stem)  - |

http://science.jrank.org/pages/2679/Ferns-General-characteristics.html

<http://www.ehow.com/info_12153590_dominant-identifying-characteristics-ferns.html>

http://www.gardenguides.com/89302-parts-moss-plant.html